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Africa

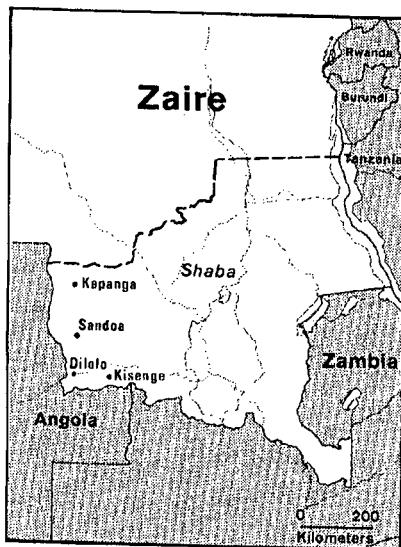
ZAIRE 10-14, 15-16

Moroccan-backed Zairian troops have continued to recapture territory from the Katangan invaders in Zaire's Shaba Region. Now that the Zairians have reached the Angolan border in the southwest, the Moroccan contingent is expected to return home soon.

The Zairians captured the mining town of Kisenge and the border town of Dilolo late last week and claimed this week to have taken Sandoa and Kapanga, the last Katangan-held towns. Some Katangans probably remain in the countryside.

During a visit to Zaire last weekend, Morocco's foreign minister said that the mission of the Moroccan troops had ended, although he did not indicate when they would depart. Moroccan King Hassan may want to bring home some of his victorious troops before he holds national elections on June 3.

Recent Zairian success in Shaba has apparently prompted a decision not to



use the Egyptian pilots, technicians, and medical personnel sent to Zaire last month. The Egyptians are expected to depart soon.

Little information is available on what has happened to the 2,000 Katangans estimated to have invaded Shaba. Some have escaped into Zambia along with other refugees from Shaba. Others may have fled into the bush, and some may have crossed back into Angola. It is also possible that they plan to rekindle the conflict once the Moroccans have departed. *A discussion of the outlook for the Katangan invaders now that they have been pushed back appears in the feature section of this publication.*

Middle East

ISRAEL 36/37

The shape and style of the new government that will emerge as a result of the May 17 election victory by the right-wing Likud party are still unclear. Party leader Menachem Begin probably could put together a cabinet with the hawkish National Religious Party and several small conservative groups, but he wants to broaden his coalition as much as possible to secure a strong working majority in the parliament.

Negotiations to this end with the new Democratic Movement for Change, however, were temporarily suspended this week following Begin's offer of the foreign ministry portfolio to Moshe Dayan, a hard-liner in the Labor Alignment, which lost its 30-year control of the government in the election. The Alignment decided against cooperation with Likud in a coalition, but Dayan, a former defense minister, agreed in principle to accept the portfolio.

Begin probably hopes that Dayan will

be able to rally support for Likud in the parliament from conservative Labor deputies, in effect padding the majority held by the Likud bloc at least on Arab-Israeli issues. Begin, moreover, probably values Dayan's experience in earlier negotiations with the Egyptians and Syrians and believes that the former defense minister's considerable popularity in the US will help counter concern in Washington and among some Jewish-American interest groups that a Likud-led government will be intransigent or extremist.

Begin's hospitalization last week because of fatigue—coming in the wake of the serious heart attack he suffered during the campaign—has injected an additional element of uncertainty into Israeli politics. His illness has raised doubts as to whether he has the stamina necessary to put together and lead a new government.

Begin has ruled the Israeli right wing as an autocrat for over 30 years, assiduously rooting out all serious challengers to his authority and grooming no one to succeed him. Should he become seriously incapacitated, however, Ezer Weizman, second in command of Begin's Herut faction, has an edge over the leader of the party's Liberal faction, Simcha Ehrlich, who reportedly does not want to be prime minister.

Apprehension about Likud's victory and Begin's tough statements is also fueling new media attacks on Israel in all the Arab countries. The more moderate Arabs, however, are playing down the significance of the election, an indication that they are determined to maintain the momentum toward a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli problem. At the same time, they are reemphasizing the need for increased US pressure on Israel. Arab militants, such as Iraq, which have steadily opposed any peaceful settlement with Israel, have welcomed the Likud victory as confirming their view of Israel as an "expansionist entity" and justifying the "rejectionist" position.

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